

May 12, 2016
Middlesex Municipal Building

The meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Borough Hall and called to order by Chairman Dan Gitler.

"This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 11, 2015"

Members: Jason Bond
 Dan Gitler
 Sean Johnson
 Jim Gorman (absent)
 John Madden, liaison (absent)

Secretary Linda Chismar

Chairman Gitler opened the meeting to the public. Seeing that there was no public participation, Chairman Gitler closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Gitler made a motion to approve the April 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Johnson moved to accept the April, 2016 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Communications

1. 127 6th Street – Commission agreed to hold off on viewing this tree as utility company is pruning in the area and will revisit next meeting and possibly do an aerial assessment.
2. 316 Raphael Avenue – Mr. Gitler and Mr. Bond will look at this tree that Ms. Parelo feels is dying in the front of her property.
3. 600 Hazelwood Avenue – Commission agreed to follow up on this request at the June Meeting.
4. 95 Ramsey Road – Mr. Bond will go out to assess this tree that Ms. Ghanim feels is dead.

5. 112 Giles Avenue – Resident called and indicated that roots of tree are still on property after tree has been removed. Commission indicated that the contractor is responsible for removing only the stump of the tree and clearance of the surrounding roots throughout the grass would be on the homeowner.
6. OLMV – Trees along Drake Ave. (Parking Lot) – Father Pat requested that the trees along Drake Avenue be removed, as he feels that they are dangerous. Commission members will go out to look at the trees and report back at the June Meeting.

Work Agenda

1. 220 Green Avenue – Commission agreed to crown clean the pin oak 2”.
2. 300 John Street – Commission agreed to grind the stump, and Mr. Johnson will go out to look at the tree that resident feels is dead.
3. 220 Chestnut Street – Mr. Gitler did not see any evidence of infestation of carpenter ants, but commission agreed to table until next month to look again at the tree.
4. 421 North Lincoln Avenue – Mr. Bond looked at the shade tree in the front of this property, but feel that it is not dead and nothing is needed.
5. 125 Fourth Street – Mr. Gitler will check the tree on the side of this property that resident requested be removed as it is dropping branches.
6. 119 Green Avenue – Commission agreed to prune this Norway Maple.
7. 800 Beechwood Avenue – Commission will follow up at the June Meeting with the black locust tree in the front of this property that resident felt had caused his sewer problem.
8. 106 Cap Lane – Commission agreed to follow up at the next meeting about the tree that resident has requested be removed.
9. 417 Runyon Avenue – Commission agreed to crown clean the tree in front of this property.
10. 425 Runyon Avenue – Commission agreed to remove the two trees in front of this property and replant 2 cherry trees.
11. 215 Harris Avenue – Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bond will look at the uprooting sidewalk that resident feels is caused by the shade tree.

Unfinished Business

1. Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – Mr. Gitler will meet with Mayor DiMura to discuss this request to amend the ordinance and also how the violations are being handled or will bring this request to the May 24, 2016 Regular Council to discuss along with the Tree Management Plan.

2. Update of Tree Management Plan – Chairman Gitler and commissioners will attend the May 24, 2016 Council Meeting to discuss the Tree Management Plan with the governing body.
3. Elm Tree Planting – Mr. Gitler will bring information to the June, 2016 Shade Tree Meeting to discuss the Elm Tree Replenishment Project.
4. Planting of “whips” – Mr. Johnson indicated that it is too late to do this planting this spring, but will discuss with the commission in March, 2017.

New Business

1. Quote for Spring Planting – Commission will supply quotes to secretary shortly.
2. Spring, 2016 Planting List – Commission agreed that due to the cut in the budget, they are planning to suspend the Spring Planting and do a Fall Planting of approximately 30 trees if funds are available. Will request permission from council to use funds in the Tree Replacement Fund for the planting.
3. Request by Tree City USA for Pictures of events – Commission discussed that more information must be documented to comply with Tree City USA Program.
4. Mr. Bond discussed the American Watershed Ambassador Program where they will plant trees for free near watershed areas. Mr. Bond will discuss further at the June, 2016 Meeting.

Mr. Gitler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
JUNE 9, 2016 – 7:30 PM
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238

